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The Journal Register

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SPORTS

Landowners eligible for MassConn's Sustainable Forest Partnership

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

REGION – Landowners who own woods in south central Massachusetts or who have a forest management plan could consider looking into MassConn's Sustainable Forest Partnership; a program that's helping landowners apply for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) cost-share funding to implement conservation practices on their land.

The program is part of a \$6.1 million Southern New England Heritage Forest conservation initiative, an unprecedented three-state collaboration involving the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island and made possible through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the NRCS.

Grant funds are available to pay for about 75% of the cost of conservation practices to improve forest health and productivity and enhance wildlife habitat. Also, landowners will have the opportunity to choose and work with a Massachusetts Licensed Forester to implement activities such as forest stand improvement and thinning, salvaging dead and dying oak trees, and more. Ideally, this program is ideally suited landowners who have a forest management plan at the stewardship level and own more than 10 acres of woods, according to the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership.

"We estimate that a range of 1,500 to 2,000 potential landowners could be eligible in the area for our program," said Ed Hood, coordina-

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Submitted photo

Troop 164's Peter Traugh recently oversaw the creation of Palmer Healthcare Center's brand-new wheelchair accessible gardening bench.

Scout completes project for his Eagle Badge

By Jonah Snowden
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PALMER – May 4th marked the completion of Palmer Healthcare Center's brand-new wheelchair accessible gardening bench, courtesy of Boy Scout Troop 164's Peter Traugh, who oversaw the project as part of his Eagle Scout requirement.

Last year, Andrea Smith, activity director of the healthcare center, reached out to Troop 164 to see if they could make them a wheelchair accessible gardening bench. In response, Traugh contacted Smith and volunteered to take on the project himself.

After getting materials from

Lowe's in Ware and from troop master William Mullen, whose garage they worked in, Traugh said they planned the project around November of last year and began building the bench in early March. This gardening bench will be used to grow flowers and shallow rooted veggies on the patio of the healthcare center.

Regarding his experience in taking on this leadership role, Traugh said it was interesting.

"There was definitely a lot of pressure on me to not mess up the project," said Traugh. "I didn't want to disappoint Ms. Smith." He also said he thinks it is a great thing to provide the seniors of the healthcare center with the chance

to garden.

Traugh's mother, Jennifer Traugh said she is very happy with her son and believes projects such as the wheelchair-accessible gardening bench are very beneficial to the young mind.

"This really does teach them how to organize their thoughts and how to organize a project," said Traugh. She said she also believes scouting is a beneficial resource for children to give them an idea of how the working world operates.

Smith said she was very appreciative of Traugh for taking the initiative to organize the creation of the center's new gardening bench. "Peter was just

wonderful," said Smith. "Before COVID-19 restrictions, he visited the nursing home to find out just what we needed. Peter drew up a blueprint and went right to work. The whole time he kept in touch with me and kept me updated on his progress."

As for scouting in general, Traugh said he found it to be boring at first, but as time progressed, he found it more fun. "It definitely got interesting, and it led me to where I am today," said Traugh.

Traugh said what he enjoys most about scouting ranges, including camping and going to events where he can meet other

SCOUT | page 5

EDUCATION

Palmer conducts COVID-19 impact survey

By Elise Linscott
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PALMER – In order to gauge how businesses and residents are being affected by the coronavirus pandemic – and how severely – the town this week launched two surveys, one for business owners and one for resident households.

In late March, the federal government approved the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, aimed at providing economic assistance for American workers, families and small businesses. The act included Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, which will be delivered to states including Massachusetts and distributed to communities.

"We wanted to begin documenting the need in the community for this money so that we know how to direct it and how much to apply for," said Sarah Szczebak, community development director for the Town of Palmer.

The community development department began distributing the surveys on Monday through the town's social media pages, town department heads, social services agencies and local chambers of commerce. By the end of the day Tuesday, the department had already received 16 responses to the business survey and 173 responses to the household survey, Szczebak said.

"Based on the comments, it appears many of the respondents are eager for the stay-at-home order to be lifted," she said.

Since the outbreak, Szczebak said she's heard anecdotally that folks in town need rental and mort-

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SPORTS

Travelnitch inaugural children's book to be published in June

By Jonah Snowden
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MONSON – On June 1st, the tale of a little girl's global adventure with her mother as they take on a whirlwind tour of iconic landmarks and ancient wonders will go public in Travelnitch's inaugural children's book, "Traveling the World with Mom."

The book is a collaboration between Amanda L. Renna, the founder, managing editor and author at the Monson-based Travelnitch publishing company, and Illustrator Leah Gray Heyes, who also happen to be lifelong friends and both live in Belchertown.

The creation of the book, which took a little bit over a year from con-

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EDUCATION

Palmer High Schools students discover career paths

By Jonah Snowden
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PALMER – Although the school-to-career placements through Palmer High School officially ended on March 13th, students said the experiences helped them clarify their career paths, while many are also continuing to work part-time jobs in service industries.

Karen Anti, Palmer's school-to-career facilitator, has kept in touch with students who are working and to continue to assist them in their career paths.

"Each day, students have a different assignment related to career awareness, exploration and immersion," said Anti. Although the internships have ended, Anti said she's still in regular contact with the students.

Their assignments include researching education needed for various careers, creating resumes, writing businesses letters and more, she said.

"For students to gain practical experience in a field and determine that they want to pursue it after high school is incredibly valuable," said Anti. "There is so much anxiety for the typical high school junior or senior. To help students gain a better understanding of what they would



Submitted photo

Palmer High School junior David Gavin working at the Palmer Fire Department.

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PALMER

Resident Lori Hadlock sews thousands of face masks

By Elise Linscott
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PALMER – Over the last three weeks, Palmer resident Lori Hadlock estimates she's made about 3,000 face masks – all of which she's donated for free to anyone who asks – for people from Palmer to Springfield to local senior centers and area college professors.

Hadlock said she's only been sewing for about three or four years. When the coronavirus outbreak began to spread, she put a post on a Palmer community Facebook page and said she'd make masks for anyone who asked for them and she now gets between 20 to 30 messages with requests per day.

"There's a lot of people out of work right now and I know people don't have a lot of money to buy them, so I said, hey, why not make them?" Hadlock said in an interview this week.

Hadlock often gets up around 6 a.m. and often stays up until 4 a.m. sewing. She's currently living at home with her husband, her daughter and her five-month-old grandson. She also watches her grandson two to three days a week and sews while he's sleeping.

"I just stay inside and sew all day," Hadlock said. "My family thinks it's great. They think I'm crazy for staying up so long and



sewing all the time, but I don't know – if there's a need, I'll do it."

Hadlock estimates she's donated masks to hundreds of people. Recently, she got a request from a college professor in Worcester who asked for 200 masks for their students, since not all of them had masks; Hadlock estimated it would take her two to three days to sew that many.

When she first started sewing masks, she left them out on her chain link fence for anyone to have – until she learned someone was taking them and selling them.

"Now, people just send me a message, tell me how many they need, I make them and put them on my front porch, and they come and

MASKS | page 5

Brimfield Market goes virtual, now through May 16th

By Elise Linscott
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BRIMFIELD – Although May's Brimfield Antique Flea Market was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, field owners and show organizers have created a virtual event on Facebook, running now through May 16th at 4 p.m.

The virtual event features live tours from the fields in Brimfield and "all over the world," according to "The Official Brimfield Live Online May 2020" Facebook event, hosted by Hertan's Antique Shows and Brimfield Live.

"May Brimfield was canceled but Hertan's Antique Shows, Heart-O- the Mart, Brimfield Auction Acres J&J, Shelton's, Sturtevant's and Central Park will go on virtually," according to the event description, which is "the only virtual event that is streaming live from the fields."

The event invites virtual attendees to join every day, throughout the day, "as we showcase items and stories from Brimfield dealers from all fields."

In keeping with tradition, Crown Company Inc. will conduct an auction on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. via Facebook Live from Hertan's Field.

There will also be more live auctions at other times along with a tour of the fields, interviews with field owners and some fun Brimfield storytelling, according to the event description.

This event is being co-hosted by The Brimfield Flea Finder, John De Giacomo of Brimfield Antique Flea Market group, Das Bulli Haus, Crown Company Inc., the Journal of Antiques and Collectibles and Ruby Lane.

United Way announces EFSP grant funding

SPRINGFIELD - United Way of Pioneer Valley (UWPV) has been appointed as administrator for Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) grant funding from FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, which appropriated supplemental funding in the amount of \$194,555 for Phase 37 and \$277,380 for CARES grants.

With a board comprised of local community leaders, we will determine funding allocation through a competitive application process. These funds will be used to supplement existing food and shelter services and cannot be given to start new programs.

Funding for Phase 37 and CARES-funded grants is now available. Nonprofit organizations (501c3) that serve Hampden County, South Hadley and Granby may apply. Allocations are to be applied towards supplementing existing food and shelter services. Applications are due by Friday, May 22 at 12 p.m. All new applicants must attend an information session on Monday, May 11 from 10-11 a.m., with registration available at <https://forms.gle/T5EaBZ1aKbhF6SDf6>.

For information or to apply, contact Nicole M. Young, Manager of Community Investments, at nyoung@uwpv.org.

About United Way of Pioneer Valley

United Way of Pioneer Valley mobilizes people and resources to strengthen our communities. We target the community's most pressing needs and focus resources, community partnerships, and the energy of volunteers to create measurable results. For more information, visit uwpv.org.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Quaboag Current/The Town Common, please email jgrybowski@turley.com.

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Summerfest Virtual Fireworks to be presented on June 27

MONSON – Although the in-person Monson Summerfest fireworks display scheduled for June 27th has been canceled because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Summerfest Committee is aware of the disappointment and looked to see what else it could do.

Working with Atlas Pyrovision Entertainment and M-Pact, the committee will be able to provide a "virtual fireworks show" on June 27th (which was the scheduled date). Atlas will give the committee their pre-recorded entry to the Montreal International Fireworks Competition Show which M-Pact will air on June 27th on Channel 15, so people can spread out blankets in front of the TV and see a great fireworks show from the comfort of your home, according to committee members. For those who do not have cable TV, you can go online and view the show from the M-Pact web site. Details will follow closer to the event.

M-Pact will also be running shows from past Monson Summerfest events throughout the day



on July 4th to take a trip down memory lane and relive past Summerfests.

"Finally, the Summerfest Committee is very disappointed but felt that we needed to cancel this year's events due to the un-

certainty of the rules and health regulations that will be in place for June and July," committee members said in a statement. "Let our virtual events fill the gap as we look forward to 2021!"

TRAVELNITCH | from page 1

ception to marketing, began as a conversation between the two.

"This book has been bouncing around in my head for a long time," Renna said. "One day while Leah and I were together, I shared the idea with her. As fate would have it, she already had illustrations sitting in the bottom of her art closet that perfectly aligned with my storyline. It was like kismet."

Heyes said it they took several months to make the illustrations. She used a Xerox transfer method for each image and added paint and ink to make the image into what she wanted it to be.

While there is no specific author that she can point to as her muse for this story, Renna said that she has enjoyed her fair share of children's books over the years.

"I'd say inspiration comes in bits and pieces, eventually culminating in a story worth telling," said Renna. She's been writing and traveling since her time at college and discovered her passion through the creation of Travelnitch.

Heyes said she's been writing and illustrating her own books since childhood, including a book she wrote as a child, called "The Princesses and the Doggies."

"I enjoy it, and have an art desk full of inspiration, unpublished books, and unframed artwork," Heyes said. "I am greatly inspired by old photos, art nouveau, history, Tasha Tudor, nature, and conversations with my own children."

Regarding the completion of the book, Renna said that her favorite part was seeing it all come together.

"When I held the first print copy in my hands, it was like magic," said Renna. "I hope others enjoy reading the story as much as I enjoyed writing it."

Heyes also said that she is happy that the illustrations were dusted off and being used to excite children to learn about their surroundings, history and nature.

As for future projects, Renna said that she and Heyes have not discussed specifics yet, but it's safe to say that this is the "start of a beautiful partnership."

"However, as the managing editor of Travelnitch, I would love to see many more children's trav-



Courtesy Photos

"Traveling the World with Mom," scheduled to be published on June 1st, tells the story of a little girl's global adventure with her mom as they go on a whirlwind tour of iconic landmarks and ancient wonders.

el books by voices other than my own," said Renna.

The book is available for pre-order. Anyone interested in purchasing an advance copy can visit travelnitch.pub.

"Traveling the World with Mom" is expected to be the first



Amanda L. Renna, founder and managing editor of Travelnitch. She is also the author of the upcoming inaugural children's book, "Traveling the World with Mom."



Leah Gray Heyes, Illustrator of the upcoming inaugural children's book, "Traveling the World with Mom."

of many children's books, as Travelnitch strives to meet a growing demand for kid-centric travel content. Writers and artists who are interested in exploring a possible partnership with Travelnitch can visit the website for more information.

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley welcomes new member and announces board

REGION – The mission of Zonta is to improve women's lives and empower them through service and advocacy. While contributing actively to this mission globally, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley has also worked since 1991 in Western Massachusetts on local projects to raise awareness on issues of domestic violence, homeless women veterans, trafficking of women and children, ending early marriage, and suicide prevention.

At its June 2020 virtual business meeting, the club will induct its newest member: Maria Maloney (Licensed Clinical Social Worker with the Center for Human Development and Monson Public Schools, from Monson); and install a slate of officers for the next biennium, June 2020 to May 2022:

Dana Burton, President (Acupuncturist and owner of Quabbin Valley Acupuncture, from Belchertown)

Danielle Petrangelo, Vice President (Direct Care Supervisor for SAFEPLAN with YWCA Western MA)

Andrea Bordenca, Treasurer (CEO for the Institute of Generative Leadership USA and DES-CO Service, and Founder of Lead Yourself Youth, from Belchertown)

Mary F Knight, Secretary (Communications Coach, from Belchertown)

Patti Matthieu, At Large Director (Special Education Teacher, from Palmer)

Luz Rivera, At Large Director (Protective Case Worker for Greater Springfield Senior Services, from Springfield)

Patricia Pupek, At Large Director and Past President (Health Services Manager with Baystate Medical Center, from Westfield)

"I am so proud of this small but mighty club," notes Patricia Pupek, current President of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley. "Even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, members are stepping up and looking for ways to be of service. This strength and resiliency will be needed now more than ever as many women face multiple challenges during this unprecedented time, including increased family responsibilities, domestic abuse, job loss, poverty, and risk of illness in frontline jobs."

Do you want to make the world a better place by working toward gender equality? Are you ready to join a supportive global community of like-minded people to take action to empower women and girls? If you are active or have been previously active in a profession, are willing to commit time to service and advocacy projects in our communities, and to contribute financially to and raise money for local & international projects that benefit women - we welcome you! Visit www.zontaqv.org or email info@zontaqv.org to learn more.

Zonta International is a global community that has empowered women and girls through service and advocacy for 100 years. It was founded November 8, 1919, in Buffalo, New York, by a group of forward-thinking women who envisioned a women's service organization that would advocate for laws and policies that ensure gender equality and help every woman and girl realize her full potential. Through continuous engagement for 10 decades, Zonta International has become a respected and reliable agent of civil society. As a non-governmental organization with general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the organization promotes and strives to protect the human rights of all women and girls and reduce the incidences of violence against them. Since 1923, Zonta has provided more than US\$40.9 million to empower women and expand their access to education, health care, economic opportunities, and safe living conditions. Zonta's nearly 1,200 clubs support local and regional initiatives in 63 countries worldwide.

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We've learned a lot lately about what that means. Most importantly, we've been reminded of the strength and resilience within our community.

As a community bank, we're pledging to support those around us in new ways. If you have questions, concerns or feel that we can help, please reach out to our Customer Care Center at 800-322-8233, or visit countrybank.com/COVID19 for more information.

Keeping our distance can't keep us from sticking together.

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DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at bcoulter@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.



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The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

DA Gulluni Comments on Clergy Sex Abuse Reporting

REGION – “Past discrepancies in the reporting of abuse allegations made it clear that there was a need for a specific and uniform process. The executed memorandum of understanding will allow law enforcement to better protect and assist victims of abuse who courageously choose to come forward. In any event, I remind everyone that no matter the age of the complaint, or whether it was previously reported, any victim of clergy sexual abuse should feel free to contact law enforcement directly. You can do so by utilizing the Hampden District Attorney’s dedicated clergy abuse hotline at 413-800-2958. Experienced detectives from the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to my office receive all calls.”

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gage assistance, as well micro-enterprise assistance (for small businesses owned by low- to moderate-income business owners) and funding for the senior center to continue its services.

“These two surveys were in response to the CDBG money we anticipate applying for,” she said. “But based on the results we may find we should be looking at other funding sources, or that there might be a need we hadn’t thought of yet. Although there are specific activities that are eligible for CDBG money, we may need to explore other avenues based on what the needs of the businesses and residents of the town are.”

Currently, there’s no deadline or cutoff for taking the survey, since communities are still waiting to hear when funding will become available. The town is also hoping to get as many responses as possible, Szczebak said.

There’s also no current estimate of when those funds might come to Palmer.

“The funds are for the coronavirus, so the effort is to get them out as soon as possible,” she said. “In the communications that I’ve had with our state funding source, they’ve said they hope to get the funding out soon, but they can’t further articulate what ‘soon’ might mean because they’re waiting on the federal government.”

Szczebak said while people haven’t been calling Town Hall to report difficulties with their businesses or saying that they’re having trouble making ends meet, she said town officials have heard through talking with business assistance groups and others who’ve had contact with residents in town that people are having “a variety of difficulties.”

“We just wanted to have a way to quantify it to a certain extent so we can get a sense of how widespread or severe the needs are,” Szczebak said.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at bcoulter@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

Baker-Polito Admin. Announces Four-Phase Approach to Reopening and Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards

New standards will apply to all workplaces when phased reopening begins

BOSTON – On May 11th, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a four-phase approach to reopening the Massachusetts economy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and published Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards that will apply across all sectors and industries once reopening begins.

The goal of the phased reopening, based on public health guidance, is to methodically allow certain businesses, services, and activities to resume, while protecting public health and limiting a resurgence of new COVID-19 cases.

PHASE 1 will be “Start:” limited industries resume operations with severe restrictions

PHASE 2 will be “Cautious:” additional industries resume operations with restrictions and capacity limits

PHASE 3 will be “Vigilant:” additional industries resume operations with guidance

PHASE 4 will be the “New Normal:” development of vaccine and/or therapy enables resumption of new normal

Businesses and activities that provided “COVID-19 Essential Services,” per Governor Baker’s March 23rd order, will continue to operate. Certain businesses and activities with a lower risk of COVID-19 transmission will open in earlier phases. Decisions and timing will be influenced by public health metrics for when the first phase of reopening begins, as well as when it is safe to move into concurrent phases.

Additionally, the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the COVID-19 Command Center, in consultation with the Reopening Advisory Board and based on feedback from industry, labor, and community coalitions, has developed Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission as employees and customers begin to return to workplaces during the first phase of reopening. These Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards are applicable to all sectors and industries that will be open in phase one, and create new workplace requirements for social distancing, hygiene, staffing and opera-

tions, and cleaning. These standards are being released to give workplaces time to plan and prepare for reopening.

For social distancing:

- All persons, including employees, customers, and vendors should remain at least six feet apart to the greatest extent possible, both inside and outside workplaces
- Establish protocols to ensure that employees can practice adequate social distancing
- Provide signage for safe social distancing
- Require face coverings or masks for all employees

For hygiene:

- Provide hand washing capabilities throughout the workplace
- Ensure frequent hand washing by employees and adequate supplies to do so
- Provide regular sanitization of high touch areas, such as workstations, equipment, screens, doorknobs, restrooms throughout work site

For staffing and operations:

- Provide training for employees regarding the social distancing and hy-

giene protocols

- Employees who are displaying COVID19-like symptoms do not report to work
- Establish a plan for employees getting ill from COVID-19 at work, and a return-to-work plan

For cleaning and disinfecting:

- Establish and maintain cleaning protocols specific to the business
- When an active employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, cleaning and disinfecting must be performed
- Disinfection of all common surfaces must take place at intervals appropriate to said workplace

In addition to these Mandatory Standards which apply to all workplaces, the Reopening Advisory Board is developing Sector Specific Safety Protocols and Best Practices that will detail how particular industries should operate upon reopening.

The Reopening Advisory Board is scheduled to provide its full report to Governor Baker on Monday, May 18th.

Local Food Pantries Receive Donations from NBSB to Help Support Neighbors in Need

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Savings Bank and its employees have always been deeply connected to their local communities, offering service through various acts of volunteerism and contributions. The Bank and its valued community ambassadors are always striving to find a way to spread hope, kindness and support to those in their communities, whether it be offering an uplifting word to someone who is struggling, making a donation to an important cause, or giving time to make our shared community experience the best it can be. While as of late they have not been able to be out in the community doing what they love most, they have still been suggesting and implementing new ways of showing their care for the communities.

Most recently, in an effort to ease the struggles of community members, North Brookfield Savings Bank made donations to local food pantries to help the remarkable pantry volunteers to stock their shelves and distribute grocery store gift cards to local residents in need. In a time when many locals are

facing hardships because of the pandemic, including job loss and illness, it is an unfortunate reality that some residents are also struggling to put food on the table. It is the Bank’s hope to do their part to ease those struggles.

North Brookfield Savings Bank donated to the following local food pantries supporting the relative communities and the surrounding areas:

First Congregational Church, 144 North Main Street, North Brookfield; Call for more information: 508-867-8428

St. Joseph’s Parish Food Pantry, 296 North Main Street, North Brookfield; Call for more information: 508-867-6811

East Brookfield Baptist Church Food Pantry, 262 East Main Street, East Brookfield; Call for more information: 508-867-7725

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry, 36 North Main Street, West Brookfield; Call for more information: 508-867-7078

Jubilee Cupboard Food Pantry,

20 Park Street, Ware; Call for more information: 413-967-3274

Food Share, Inc., 39 Walnut Street, Palmer; Call for more information: 413-283-3614

Belchertown Ecumenical Food Pantry, 24 Jabish Street, Belchertown; Call for more information: 413-323-6272

Before visiting these food pantries, it is suggested to contact them for their specific hours, ID or paperwork requirements, and policies for pick up during the pandemic.

As a local and dependable bank, North Brookfield Savings Bank has been a part of its communities for over 165 years. It is their commitment to their values of supporting their communities and sharing kindness that drives them and forms the foundation of their business. This has always been their way of doing business, but now more than ever they are working hard to ensure that their community members know NBSB is here to support them. From the creation and distribution of vital and informative resources on their website, through ac-

tive support of their customers as they adopt unfamiliar but important remote banking options, as they implement innovative ways to continue to offer the same great service through their drive-ups and as they assist businesses as they navigate loans programs, to offering great online and mobile banking options, NBSB is here to help.

“It is an unfortunate reality that these hard and uncertain times can pose great challenges for many individuals. Our local food pantries are great resources that help support our community members in need and it is our honor to help them in their efforts,” said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO Donna Boulanger. “Thank you to the many local volunteers who keep these vital pantries running during these times, when they are needed more than ever.”

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank’s community giving efforts and all of the convenient banking products and services offered, visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

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Viewpoints

Worrisome trends affecting representative democracy

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

We've seen plenty of evidence lately of the deep polarization in this country. Even in the midst of this crisis, national politicians, the political parties and their adherents are finding plenty to fight over—even as, for the most part, ordinary Americans have been remarkably united and many governors and mayors have worked hard to handle the coronavirus pandemic competently and guided by expert advice.

The question as we look ahead is whether the trends we'd been seeing before the pandemic will reassert themselves, or instead there will be some sort of reset. Because those earlier trends are extremely worrisome.

For years now, it's been common for politicians to label their rivals as unpatriotic and illegitimate. The deep freeze in cross-aisle relations in Congress had made progress there extremely difficult, though the crisis has given congressional leaders and members of the Trump Administration no choice but to keep bargaining until they hammer out agreements.

Other trends are equally problematic. The federal civil service, for instance, has always fielded a lot of very good people—dedicated public servants who try not to be partisan, remain independent in their views, and support the work of whichever administration is in power. They want to make government work better. That has gotten much harder to pull off in recent years, and the result is a civil service that is losing workers, institutional knowledge, and competence. There are still capable civil servants, many of whom have been doing their best to keep federal services on an even keel during this crisis, but it's hard to escape the feeling that their impact has been diminished.

Likewise with the judiciary, which has become more politicized. It's a worrisome trend in a branch of government that has generally stood for even-handed justice and, over the long term, strengthened Americans' civil rights and civil liberties. The President, however, likes to say that his biggest achievement in office has been to put very conservative judges into power, a claim that undermines the judicial branch's standing as the pillar of independence this country long depended upon. Ideology will always play a role in judicial choices, but making judges more nakedly political is a destructive trend.

This extends to the media, as well. For whatever reason, it exercises less rigorous oversight of government, and what does exist is more partisan. While there's coverage of national issues and politics, the trends have led to less robust local coverage, and a less healthy democracy.

As polarization has deepened, Congress has gridlocked, presidential power has expanded (not a new thing, by the way), and the government has become less responsive and less effective. It took a national crisis to lay bare some of these issues, but the trends underlying them have been going on for some time, and fixing them will take time, too.

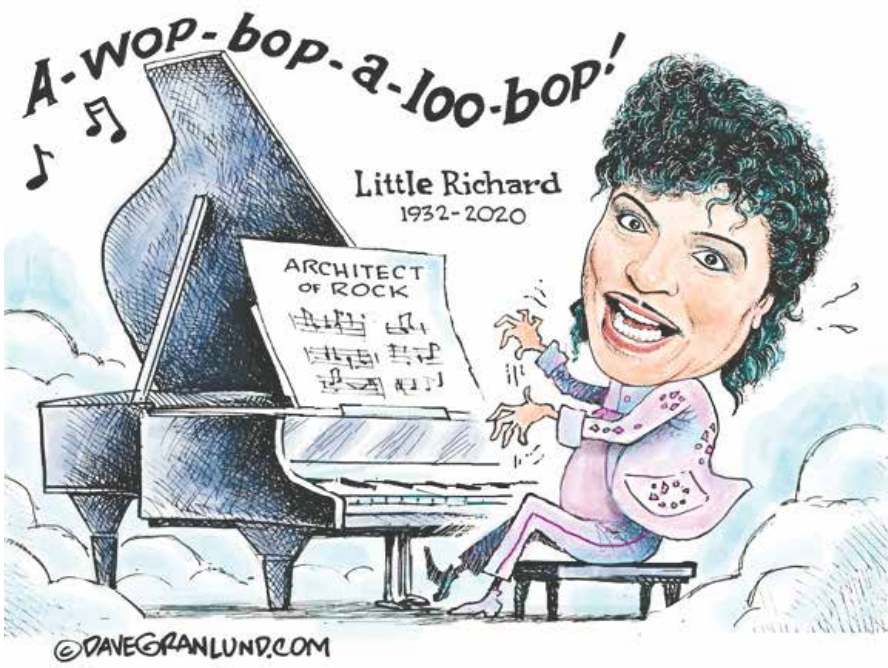
This has to start with ordinary Americans. Voters need to reclaim our democracy and demand that the system that made us a great nation—one that adhered to the checks and balances and separate institutional responsibilities laid out in our Constitution—be restored. At the community, state, and federal levels, our job is to maintain the robustness of our institutions of government, agitate to ensure that they are performing as they should, and recognize that if the trends I've laid out strengthen their grip, our representative democracy will suffer. The threats may not be existential yet, but they could become so.

Because here's the thing. People may distrust government, but just as the pandemic has made clear that at bottom there's no palatable alternative to an effective and competent government system, so it's also true that the only way ultimately to solve the problems and worrisome trends of government is principally through government action. Which means that in the end, as citizens we have to forcefully step up to our responsibilities and insist that our public officials do so, too.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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Help for old lilacs

While we never did get that new picket fence finished for Mother's Day, we did attack a patch of lilacs that were in terrible need of TLC. The poor things were growing in stone and covered in grapevine and a fair share of poison ivy. They really struggled last year and because of that have only a few buds. Once they are finished blooming we'll cut them back and do our best to enrich the soil and cross our fingers that they will rejuvenate. If you too like lilacs and are in need of a refresher course on their culture, read on.

I find it funny that for 50 weeks out of the year this non-descript bush blends into the background, but then, for two glorious weeks in May the spotlight is all its own. Sure, the flowers are great, but I think that they are merely a vessel for the intoxicating fragrance. I sniff it once and I am taken back to my childhood and the purple lilacs that bordered our back porch.

It is not difficult to succeed with lilacs providing you meet their basic requirements. Although they will survive in shade, they will not bloom there. Plant them in full sun in well-drained soil, avoiding areas that puddle water in summer or become encased in ice in winter. This is not to say lilacs like a drought, they do appreciate supplemental watering during dry spells. Lilacs prefer neutral to alkaline soil. Since soils in Massachusetts tend to be acidic adjusting the pH with lime is likely to be necessary.

Transplant in early spring or early fall, allowing a good 10 feet of space per lilac. If a hedgerow of like varieties is desired spacing can be reduced to six feet apart. While lilacs may bloom the first season after transplanting, it may take three years for them to establish and flower regularly. As soon as flowering is finished remove spent blossoms down to the first leaf. Seed formation will be halted and energy will be conserved and redirected to next season's flower production. Since buds are set in summer it is important to tackle any necessary

pruning soon after flowering as well. If pruning takes place in fall, winter, or in spring prior to bloom there is a good chance buds will be sacrificed.

If your lilacs have become too woody and blooms are sniffed by use of tippy-toes it is time for some rejuvenation. Start in the center of the bush at ground level and work out, cutting out the oldest stems. Then concentrate on reducing the overall height to about 8 feet. Severely overgrown lilacs can be handled in this manner over a three-year period, pruning out one third each year.

You can propagate your own lilacs simply by transplanting a sucker from the main bush. In spring, use a spade to separate it, but leave it in place until the fall, by that time it will have grown its own roots and will be safe to move.

Two diseases that affect the leaves of lilac are powdery mildew fungus and leafroll necrosis, both of which are more cosmetic than injurious to plant health. Powdery mildew appears as white blotches on the leaves in late summer and fall. Adequate spacing and regular pruning to improve air circulation may reduce the attack. Leafroll necrosis causes leaves to curl and is thought to be the result of air pollution. Some varieties are more susceptible to these diseases than others, keep this in mind when making your selection at the nursery. There are hundreds of cultivars of the Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*). Single and double-flowering forms are available, and colors range from traditional lilac-purple to other shades of purple, pink, magenta and white.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Husband confused about spouse benefits

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I am 65 and still working and plan to work for some time to come. My birthdate is February 1955. My wife is 64 and not working. Her birthdate is January 1956. Half of my benefit is more than half of hers. I am confused on the spousal benefit rules. If she were to take her Social Security early before she reaches her full retirement age, what are the rules that affect her? Signed: Confused Husband

Dear Confused: First I must clarify that spousal benefits do not work as you have suggested, that "half of my benefit is more than half of hers." Spousal benefits are always based upon the amount the individuals are due at their full retirement age, regardless of the age at which they claim. If half of your benefit at your full retirement age (FRA) is more than your wife's full benefit at her full retirement age, then the difference between those two numbers is a "spousal boost" which is added to your wife's own payment amount when her spouse benefit starts. If she has reached her FRA when you claim and her spouse benefit

starts, your wife will get the entire spousal boost; if she has not, the spousal boost will be reduced.

Your wife cannot collect a spousal benefit until you start collecting your Social Security, so if she claims benefits before you claim she will initially get only what she is entitled to on her own work record. Then when you claim, the "spousal boost" will be added to her benefit. If you claim at your FRA, your wife will not yet have reached her full retirement age, so her spousal boost amount will be reduced and added to her own reduced benefit amount, making her total benefit as your spouse less than 50 percent of your FRA benefit amount.

Your full retirement age is 66 years and 2 months, and you won't be entitled to full benefits until you reach that age. For your awareness, you can wait beyond your FRA and earn delayed retirement credits, up to age 70 when your benefit would be about 31 percent more than it would be at your FRA, but your wife cannot get her spousal boost until you claim.

And also for your awareness, if you claim benefits before you reach your FRA and continue to

work, you'll be subject to Social Security's earnings limit (\$18,240 for 2020) which, if exceeded, will cause SS to take back some of your benefits. The earnings limit goes up by about 2.5 times in the year you reach your FRA and goes away when you reach your full retirement age.

Your wife's full retirement age is 66 years and four months, and any benefits she claims on her own record prior to reaching that age will be reduced. At 64 she could claim her own benefit from her own work record (assuming she has at least 40 Social Security credits), but that benefit would be reduced to about 85 percent of what she would get at her FRA. And claiming at age 64 would also affect the amount of her spousal benefit when that starts. The only way your wife can get 100 percent of the amount she is due as your spouse is to wait until her FRA to claim any benefit. If she claims her own benefit at age 64 or any time before her FRA, not only will her own benefit be reduced, but her eventual benefit as your spouse will be less than 50 percent of your FRA benefit amount, even if you wait to claim until your wife reaches her FRA.

That's because her spousal boost, when it occurs, will be added to the reduced Social Security retirement amount she is getting because she claimed before her full retirement age.

You are certainly not alone to be confused about spousal benefits as this is one of the most confusing areas of Social Security's rules. But I hope the above provides what you and your wife need to make an informed claiming decision.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

When duties call, heroes answer

Heroic men and women of all sizes, shapes and ethnic backgrounds live and work within our towns and cities answering calls to duties for our safety and well-being. They use their trained skills and expertise to help us, either as a professional or volunteer, to help us. Whether it's providing helpful support and information, or it's a life-threatening situation, they answer the call to help.

Although Firefighter's Day was observed earlier on May4, 2020, honoring firefighters both locally and globally is appropriate every day. In European countries, it's also celebrated on the day honoring Saint Florian, the patron saint of firefighters. Symbolically, blue and red ribbons or lights represent red for fire and blue for water. The author of The Firefighter's Pledge is unknown, but that person is honored each time a Firefighter recites it, "I promise concern for others. A willingness to help all those in need. I promise courage-courage to face and conquer my fears. Courage to share and endure the ordeal of those who need me. I promise strength-strength of heart to bear whatever burdens might be placed upon me. Strength of body to deliver to safety all those placed within my care. I promise the wisdom to lead, the compassion to comfort and the love to serve unselfishly whenever I am called."

Currently, National Nurses Week was observed during May 6-12, 2020, with appreciation shown for School Nurses working in educational settings. International Nurses Day is celebrated globally on May12, on the birthday of Florence Nightingale. During a pinning ceremony, several years ago, I heard "The Nightingale Pledge" (written in 1893) shared: "I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully. I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug. I will do all in my power to maintain and elevated the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge, in the practice of my calling. With loyalty will I aid the physician in his work, and as a missioner of health, I will dedicate myself to devoted service for human welfare."

National Police Week is celebrated May 10-16, 2020. The C.O.P.S. Law Enforcement Survivors announced that due to the COVID-19 health restrictions in Washington, D.C. and Virginia, and the travel advisories throughout the country, the National Police Week's public events were cancelled. However, Fallen Law Enforcement Officers will be honored during a Virtual Candlelight Vigil on May 13th. Special recognition and names of the each of the men and women, who died in the line of duty in 2019, will be read aloud. This important event held on the National Mall, (usually with more than 30,000 first responders, surviving families and law enforcement attendees), will be Live Streamed and can be watched globally.

Heroes are among us ready to serve. They respond readily to disasters, emergencies and to domestic traumas.

One of the calls that heroes respond to is the three-digit number: "9-1-1" This "Universal Emergency Number" is for U.S. residents to use when needing emergency help. Canada also uses this same number. When seeing the "9-1-1" number-- it reminds us all of a take-your-breath-away day in 2001 when our country was shocked. That date? 9-11.

Let's be thankful that when duties call, heroes answer.



Election letters to the editor welcome

The *Journal Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to dfarmer@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Douglas Farmer at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact Lisa Marulli, 413-283-8393 or lmarrulli@turley.com, about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
**The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
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or by e-mail to:
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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

The Journal Register

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Baker-Polito Administration, Partners in Health, provide update

BOSTON – On May 7th, the Baker-Polito Administration joined Partners in Health and local public health officials to provide an update on contract tracing efforts through the COVID-19 Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) launched last month. The initiative focuses on tracing the contacts of confirmed positive COVID-19 patients, and supporting individuals in quarantine, building on COVID-19 Response Command Center efforts to leverage public health college students to augment the contact tracing being done by local boards of health.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, the MA COVID Team will reach out by phone to connect the confirmed case with support and resources necessary for quarantine, and to identify any close contacts that may have been exposed. As the CTC continues its contact tracing work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, it is critical that Massachusetts residents answer the phone when a contact tracer calls or texts. Contact tracers will only reach out from phone numbers with 833 or 857 area codes, and the phone's caller ID will say MA COVID Team. Since calls began on April 12,

tens of thousands of Massachusetts residents have participated in contact tracing. Staffed with more than 1,600 tracers, the Tracing Collaborative has reached nearly 14,000 confirmed cases and established more than 7,500 of their contacts since calls began on April 12. In part due to effective social distancing measures, the median number of contacts reported by each confirmed case remains approximately two. To learn more about the MA COVID Team and the Community Tracing Collaborative, visit www.mass.gov/MATracingTeam.



MASKS | from page 1
pick them up," she said.

Hadlock made the first face masks with material she had on hand. But since the word spread about her one-woman operation, people have been donating supplies to her, including the thread, fabric and materials needed to make them. "It just blossomed from there," she said. She said she's also received thank-you notes in the mail from recipients, including one from the Palmer Senior Center that she said was "really nice."

LANDOWNERS | from page 1

tor with the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership and executive director of the Opacum Land Trust. "In addition to individuals and families who own woodlands, the program is also open to other types of private landowners including non-profit land trusts, conservation organizations and institutions."

As for conservation practices, landowners can use a wide range of practices approved by the NRCS. Practices are anticipated to be forest stand improvement and thinning, restoration of woods impacted by gypsy moth damage, invasive plant control and management, construction and stabilization of woodland access trails, and forest bird and wildlife habitat enhancement.

"All landowners who apply for funding will need to have an NRCS-approved forest management plan," Hood said. "For those who don't already have one, the program also provides cost share funding for landowners to hire a licensed forester to develop a forest management plan and conduct a bird habitat assessment for their property. Landowners who own more than ten acres are eligible to have their plan approved by the MA Department of Conservation and recreation and participate in the state's Chapter 61 tax reduction programs."

Hood said the program runs until the summer of 2022, so funding will be available over the next two or more years.

"Landowners who are interested in participating in the program will follow an application and implementation process that follows NRCS requirements and will take several months to more than a year to see a project through to completion," said Hood. "For most landowners, forest management is a long-term endeavor. Some improvements will be seen very quickly, while others may take years to become fully apparent."

Regarding the need to maintain or restore forested areas, Hood said that healthy forests provide several vital functions for their communities. One is that forests filter and protect ground water, providing the region with its primary source of fresh drinking water, whether it's taken from wells or from surface reservoirs.

"Without forests, the cost of providing clean drinking water would be a heavy burden on users and taxpayers," said Hood.

Another reason is that forests filter and clean the air, removing large amounts of particulate matter from the air we breathe. "Forests also generate oxygen while absorbing and storing carbon dioxide," said Hood.

Hood said healthy forests also provide economic opportunity from wood products such as timber, firewood and maple syrup.

"Tourism to the parks, state forests, conservation areas, and lakes and rivers are an important part of the region's tourism economy," said Hood. "Hunting, fishing, birdwatching, camping, and hiking

are all important parts of our rural life and tourism to our region. Without healthy forests, these activities would disappear."

Professional forester Christopher Riely, who is also coordinating this project, said this program covers over 28 towns that lie between Springfield and Worcester. This includes towns such as Belchertown, Brimfield, Hampden, Holland, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Wales, Ware, and more.

The state's NCRS has frequent application review deadlines, so those who are interested in applying can do so at any time. To get started, contact Riely at christopher@sweetbirchconsulting.com or call 401-225-6135.

Dakin Humane Society accepting nominations for Humane Awards

Awards to Honor People Who Improve the Lives of Animals in Their Community

SPRINGFIELD – Dakin Humane Society is accepting nominations from the public for its Dakin Humane Awards until July 31. Nominees should be people who go out of their way to care for animals in need; people who volunteer to help animals; or people and/or animals who have provided significant public service or shown courage in a crisis. Finalists in each of the award categories will be picked from among the nominees and notified of their selection in August. The award ceremony will be live streamed at a later date in the fall, and one winner in each of the categories will be announced.

There are five awards to be bestowed. They are:

Frances M. Wells Award - This award is given to an individual recognized for notable contributions to the health and welfare of animals.

Youth Award -This award honors a hero, 16 years or younger, whose extraordinary care and compassion makes a difference in the life of an animal and makes the world a kinder and gentler place.

Champion Award - This award is given to a public servant who makes life better for tens of thousands of animals and people

in their community. This award recognizes their dedication and compassion on behalf of animals and people in need.

Richard and Nathalie Woodbury Philanthropy Award -This award pays homage to an individual who displays a remarkable sense of stewardship in sharing time, talent and financial resources to improve the lives of animals and people who love them.

Animal Hero Award - This award recognizes an exceptional animal and handler (when applicable) whose valor and extraordinary devotion to people proved lifesaving in disastrous or challenging health circumstances.

"Originally, we had planned to present the 2020 Humane Awards in May," said Dakin's Director of Development and Marketing, Stacey Price. "Then the COVID-19 pandemic made that gathering impossible, so we are planning a live stream awards ceremony sometime this fall, which will be announced soon. We are extending our nomination period, and with so many acts of kindness being offered among people these days, we are hoping some folks will nominate someone whose good deeds have helped an animal, as well as the people who love that animal."

She continued, "For example, it could be someone who cared for a pet while that pet's person was hospitalized with the virus. Maybe someone organized a fundraiser to help a person keep their pet when faced with sudden

unemployment. There are many people who have volunteered at animal shelters, so their dedication could lead to a nomination for them as well. We hope people will nominate someone they know who deserves recognition."

Nominations are being accepted online only at <http://bit.ly/2NOcgps>. Mail-in nominations will not be accepted. Nominees should be residents of central or western Massachusetts or northern Connecticut.

After July 31, nominations will be reviewed by Dakin Humane Society's directors and staff, and finalists will be selected. After that, a panel of independent judges will select the winners by voting in each category. The decisions will be based solely on the content of the nomination forms. Nominators are asked to provide thoughtful, concise and specific examples of their nominees' efforts on behalf of animals.

Dakin Humane Society delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them from its two locations in Leverett and Springfield, MA. The organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals each year. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses. For more information, visit www.dakinhumane.org.

SCOUT | from page 1

scouts and learn about how they go into scouting.

"Scouting is not for everyone, but I think that almost everyone can enjoy knowing what scouting stands for," said Traugh. "There's a lot you can learn from it."

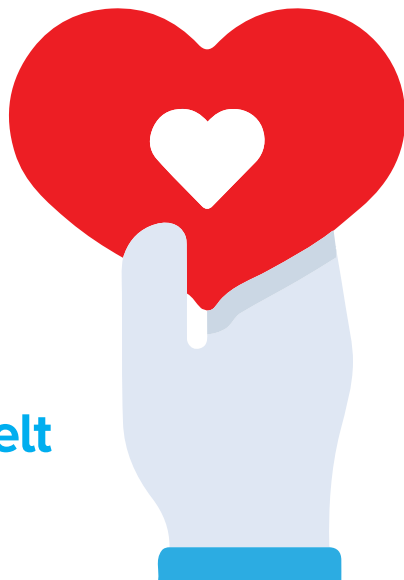
Moving forward, he is looking forward to scouting events such as summer camp and seeing his fellow scouts work towards accomplishing their Eagle Scout requirements. He is also looking forward to filling his own Eagle Scout

application and later going through the interview process, which is a requirement.

To learn more about Troop 164, visit <https://www.facebook.com/Troop164Palmer/>.

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Mother's Day Message



Lynn Lis of Mount Dumplin Daycare has been providing childcare since 1986 and has been closed due to the pandemic regulations since March. Lis said it was a heartfelt surprise on Sunday afternoon when the Holbrook children of Palmer stood on her front lawn to wish her a Happy Mother's Day. "They've been with me for 11 years, and this just made me cry," she said.

Grab 'N Go lunch launched for those over 60

Those over 60 years of age, who are social distancing but wish to receive a delicious healthy lunch are invited to participate in Greater Springfield Senior Services Inc. (GSSSI) new "Grab 'n Go" meal program offered at six (6) community locations. This program launched on May 1st is in response to the needs of older adults impacted by the COVID19 pandemic, those who no longer attend traditional senior dining programs, those limiting trips to supermarkets and those who may face food insecurity challenges.

GSSSI has joined with community partners to create a nutrition alternative. This collaboration has made it possible to offer a Grab 'n Go lunch program. These partners include: the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, Springfield (Tuesday & Friday), The Gray House, Springfield (Tuesday & Friday), Brimfield Council on Aging (Monday, Wednesday & Friday), Palmer Council on Aging (Tuesday & Thursday), Hampden Council on Aging (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) and Wilbraham Council on Aging (Tuesday & Friday).

Those who wish to check out the menu choices, and for reservation information, please visit GSSSI.org or call GSSSI at (413) 781-2135. Next week's offerings include Pork Roast with Gravy, Lemon Pepper Chicken, Veggie Hummus Wrap and more! The Grab 'n Go program does require reservations and requests a confidential voluntary donation of \$2.00.

GSSSI especially appreciates the support of its "start-up funders." The COVID-19 Response Fund for



It's lunch time in Wilbraham as PVT driver Elizabeth Rivera hands meal bag to Senior Center Director Paula Dubord and volunteer Sherrie Demetrius is ready to set up for their Grab 'n Go Program.

the Pioneer Valley powered by the Community Foundation of Western Mass and the Jean Griswold Foundation both stepped up to provide the necessary financial boost.

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVT) is transporting food from the caterers to the meal sites. Sandra Sheehan, Administrator PVT noted, "For years PVT has transported seniors to centers for lunch and activities. We are now pleased to be bringing the meals to the center for the seniors." Jill Keough, GSSSI Executive Director in her remarks noted she was overwhelmed by the cooperation from so many community partners.

Key players in this project include the GSSSI catering team. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Elegant Affairs Catering located in Springfield provides a "Heart Healthy" chilled meal for participants to take home, heat and eat. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays,

Rachael's Food, LLC of Chicopee will offer gourmet salads and sandwiches.

Springfield Senior Services Inc. provides a variety of in-home and community-based services for older adults, individuals with disabilities and caregivers. Services include information and referral, caregiver support, care management, and protective services for victims of elder abuse. For more information about GSSSI please call 413-781-8800 or visit GSSSI.org.



Palmer High School senior Jose Aponte.



Palmer High School senior Dawne Laviolette.

CAREER | from page 1

like to do after high school is very rewarding."

Students have also worked with the MassHire Career Information System (MassCis), which helped students discover different potential careers through surveys.

One of the students who has worked with Anti is PHS junior David Gavin. For about four months, he has worked at the Palmer Fire Department. There, he usually does dispatch, but if they need him on the scene, he will be called there, too. He also fills out the proper times for the reports and makes sure items are packed away neatly.

"The experience is great because I want to do it and I work with amazing people," said Gavin. "During this pandemic it's been slow because everyone is staying home so there aren't as many calls as there used to be, but that's also good because not as many people are getting hurt."

After high school, Gavin plans on going into the Marine Corps and when he retires, to become a firefighter. He also might join the United States Army Reserve and work as a firefighter for his civilian job.

Another student who has worked with Anti is senior Jose Aponte. During the fall and winter of 2019, Aponte interviewed with Palmer Ambulance Services, where he worked in inventory, cleaned and inspected the ambulances and cleaned the supply room.

"My responsibilities also included assisting paramedics/EMTs with small tasks on emergency calls and transfers," said Aponte. "My experience with Palmer Ambulances was also amazing as it opened my eyes to what the town of Palmer needed for help during 9-1-1 calls" and about the help individuals received when going to Baystate Medical Center.

During the winter and spring of 2020, Aponte also interned at the Palmer Police Department. With the police, he attended scheduled ride-a-longs with different officers at various times.

"The biggest interest that stood out to me in both internships was the help people need in emergency situations and who they looked for to help them," said Aponte. "Since I was a kid, I always wanted to help others in need and both of these internships helped me determine that trait that I will keep with me in my future

careers."

He also currently works at Palmer's Big Y World Class Market and has been there since July of 2018. Usually working part-time, Aponte said that this job has given him the experience of dealing with stress, people and emotions.

"Working through the pandemic showed the real side of some individuals and opened the door to the people that actually make our lives easier and better every week," said Aponte.

After graduating, Aponte said he will attend Western New England University, where he will study criminal justice. In about a year or two from now, he said he will also apply to the Palmer Police Department's Auxiliary Program to attend the Massachusetts Police Academy.

Senior Dawne Laviolette has also worked with Anti and has discovered that her interest in helping students learn has gotten bigger.

During both her junior and senior years, Laviolette said she interned at PHS and Old Mill Pond Elementary School. With these internships, she was able to work with both 5th and 7th graders and help those who were behind and assisting the teacher in tasks such as vocabulary flash cards or making worksheets for students.

"All my experiences have been amazing and have helped me grow so much," said Laviolette. "Working side-by-side with some amazing teachers has made me interested in pursuing a teaching career. Also, my love for children."

Currently, she works at Dunkin' and feels she specializes in interacting with customers. She has been there for about six months and is currently working part-time. After graduating, Laviolette plans on going to Bay Path University to study child psychology.

Overall, Anti said something she noticed about working with the students is that they grow in confidence, and she believes that each student is hard-working and blossoming through the mentoring of their supervisors. She also said she finds it rewarding to watch students grow from being nervous before their first day of an internship to later reporting about the exciting details of their day.

Over the past few weeks we have seen a sharp increase in fresh meat prices, due to limited supply, and high demand. We will not run out of meat, however certain items or cuts may be less available than others. Our frozen sections continue to provide great values with an extensive selection and variety, and are a great alternative, we encourage you to check them out! Please note, beginning May 6th, per the order of the State of Massachusetts, anyone entering the premises must wear a face covering and we will be required to refuse entry to anyone who does not comply. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during these unusual circumstances. Be well and stay safe!

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BASEBALL

Bollea, Lamberton would have led younger Panthers squad this spring

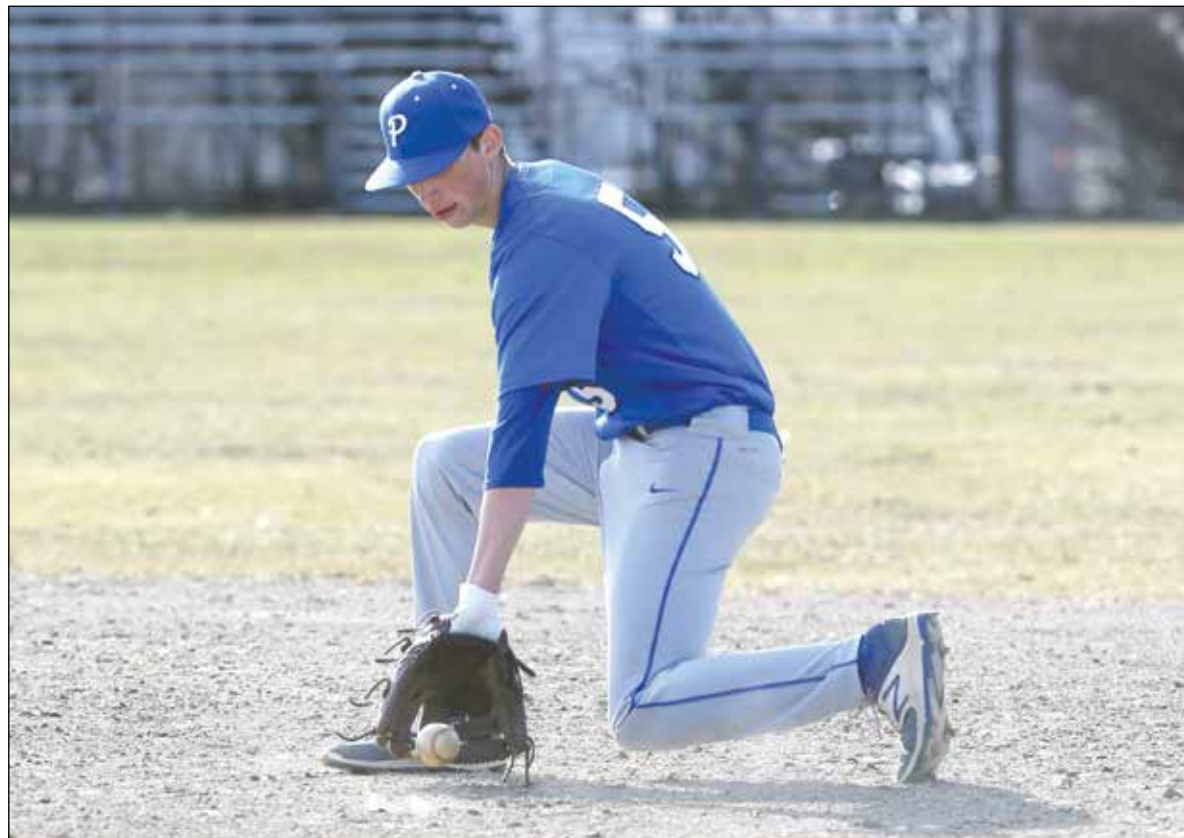
By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

PALMER – It would have been a much different year for the Palmer High School baseball. Following the retirement of coach Peter Farr, Anthony Pasquarosa would have taken over the program.

He would have had two seniors on the team, and had a lot to say about the two individuals, who will not be able to play another game in the Panthers' uniform.

"My two seniors this year were Trevor Lamberton and Jake Bollea," said Pasquarosa. "If you could make two athletes to lead, not only by example on the field, but in practice and with their communication and love of competition, these are the 2 guys you'd come up with. Both of them are the kind of kids who you can point to during practice and say, 'watch him, he is doing it the right way.' And they are adaptable and willing to learn."

According to the coach, Lamberton kind of kid who would play anywhere or do anything you ask for the better of the team, and not only that he will have an absolute



Shortstop Trevor Lamberton backhands a grounder. He would have been a senior this year.

File photos



Jake Bollea slides in ahead of the throw during a game last year.

blast playing different positions.

"He believes in himself and his abilities and knows no limits," said Pasquarosa. "Trev is a hard worker, extra reps, constantly asking questions, making sure you saw something, always picking your brain about the game. He has an infectious positive attitude, he never beats himself. Trevor truly loves the game of baseball, he is watching the game, learning the game, playing the game in the fall and summer."

He said Bollea gives him a set of eyes on the field.

"Jake Bollea is like having another coach out there a lot of the time," said Pasquarosa. "He is the kind of leader that can take the outfielders with him and run some

drills, and he would do that without someone having to tell him. He is a real grinder, dirty uniform, looking for an extra bag and an opportunity. He is the true definition of a leader and role model. There are a lot of things I will miss about Jake as well, but two immediately come to mind: The first, is I will miss his help on the field and in practice; The second is his mentality, and I would put it like this whatever it takes. Jake would bunt, read the dirt ball, take an extra bag or lay his body out to make a play, and be jogging in smiling."

Pasquarosa said he was ready to build off the success Farr had with the program, and was ready for the challenge.

"I had high expectations this



Trevor Lamberton makes a play at second base during a game last year. The spring season was cancelled.

File photos

year, I wanted to build on what Pete had been building in Palmer for so long," said Pasquarosa. "He is someone I respect and look up to. It was going to be my first year as varsity head coach, I had been the JV coach for 3 years and was really looking forward to it, because I know the kind of kids we got."

"Coach (Gary) Webber from Monson had signed on, and my father was even going to come down from Franklin to help us out a couple times a week. It's disappointing. We had already had a meeting just to get some paperwork, talk and get on the same page, Coach Webber and I had met a bunch too to do the same. Both of us were really revved up. I was really

looking forward to coaching with him, I have a tremendous amount of respect for the way he sees and coaches the game, our kids do too."

Pasquarosa believes the loss of the season will definitely have an impact on players.

"The practice and camaraderie of a team, running drills, repetition, the speed of the game and the way the mind thinks during said times is something that cannot be duplicated and it is so sad that all the athletes have to miss out on a year of development," said Pasquarosa. "I don't think we will truly understand the repercussions until next year."

GOLF

Owls AD honored by UMass-Amherst

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University Director of Athletics Richard (Dick) Lenfest, Jr. has been honored by his alma mater as a recipient of the Harold J. VanderZwaag Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UMass Amherst's Mark H. McCormack Department of Sport Management.

Lenfest has been the athletic director at Westfield State since the 2005-06 season. In his tenure, Owls' athletics has been recognized eight times as the Howard C. Smith Cup winner, representative of the best overall athletics program in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference. The Owls won the Smith Cup in 2015, '16, '17, and 2018, the first four-year sweep in school history.

In the summer of 2018, Lenfest was recognized as an Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athlet-

ics (NACDA).

During Lenfest's tenure, Westfield has added varsity women's lacrosse, men's ice hockey, and men's and women's golf to its sport offerings. Lenfest has also led fundraising efforts that have helped Westfield State to establish its hockey team, improve its baseball and softball fields, and rename its track, creating endowed funds for track, hockey, and cross country, as well as starting the Owl Club annual and corporate giving programs and Owl Club golf tournament to support athletics.

Lenfest is a graduate of the sport management program at UMass Amherst, and earned his MBA from American International College, where he also served as assistant athletic director and assistant women's basketball coach. Before beginning his career in college athletics, Lenfest worked for ten years in professional baseball as an assistant

general manager in the New York Mets system, with stops in Pittsburgh, Mass., and Kingsport, Tenn.

Other 2020 honorees included current Pittsburgh Pirates and former Boston Red Sox general manager Ben Cherington, MS 1997, Catherine Carlson, MS 1998, the Senior Vice President, Revenue and Strategy for the Philadelphia Eagles, and Daryl Jasper, BS 1993, vice president of Learfield's East Region.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is named in honor of longtime professor Dr. VanderZwaag's unwavering dedication and commitment to the department. Honorees are alumni who display professional excellence, outstanding achievement in the sports industry, and dedication to the McCormack Department of Sport Management.

The Mark H. McCormack Department of Sport Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst is one of the

few sport management programs housed within a business school: the Isenberg School of Management. U.S. News & World Report ranks Isenberg as a top public undergraduate business school in New England, and Isenberg's online MBA is ranked #3 in the world by the Financial Times (2019).

The Mark H. McCormack Department of Sport Management is one of the oldest such programs in the world, and the program's network includes more than 2,500 sport industry alumni, featuring leaders and innovators within every segment of the commercial sports industry. The department has one of the top undergraduate programs in the country, and its graduate program—consisting of master's (MS) level as well as dual-degree (MBA/MS) concentrations—is currently ranked #1 in the world by one of the industry's leading publications, SportBusiness.

HIGH SCHOOL

2020

SPRING SPOTLIGHT

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Senior athletes to be highlighted in coming weeks

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Turley Publications sports department is looking to honor the senior athletes who have had their spring seasons cancelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

Over the next several weeks, the sports section will have stories and photos about the various spring sports teams that were never even able to have a practice, and eventually saw their full season cancelled. You can see them starting in this week's editions.

We will be talking with spring coaches and athletic directors, but would also love to hear from senior players about their feelings about

the spring season being cancelled.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

If you don't see your child's sport in the paper, please encourage your son or daughter's coach to contact us so they can all be included.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn't.

GOLF

Courses allowed to open, carts for those in need

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

After more than a month of waiting, a sigh of relief has come over at least one sport as Gov. Charlie Baker lifted the ban on golf courses. Golf courses were able to open up last Thursday after Baker took heat for being the only state in the country not to allow golfing.

Two golf courses in central Massachusetts, one of them being Wachusett Golf Course, was set to re-open despite the governor's ban, but Baker lifted it before owners could defy him.

His move was not made without restrictions, many of which will slightly change how the game is played temporarily, such as the fact that flags must remain in the hole and flags that are hit with the ball not going in the hole are considered a completion of that hole.

One restriction that was met with a lot of unpopularity was the banning of the golf carts, requiring that people walk from hole to hole. For many older golfers, that made the prospect of hitting the course not feasible, and was something that would likely continue to chase golf business to neighboring states, including Connecticut.

But Sunday morning, Baker announced he was lifting the ban on carts, but only for people who

show a physical need for them.

According to Mass. Golf, the sport is a \$2.8 billion business in the state. Because golf can be done with a certain level of social distancing, many people have been clamoring for the re-opening of courses.

For now, with a number of guidelines, golfing is now possible for all ages. Not every golf course has opened, but most private courses have made the decision to open. Because Baker allowed course to employ maintenance staff during the full stay-at-home advisory period, most course were kept up and ready to go last Thursday when the order was lifted.

Municipally-run courses can be opened at the discretion of the individual towns. Agawam Mayor William Sapelli immediately opened Agawam Municipal Golf Course.

If you are thinking about heading out to the golf course, here are a few of the things you should know to play the game properly and safely under state guidelines: All golfers must maintain proper social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times. Groups of players are restricted to no more than 4 players at one time. Tee Time Policy must be 15 minutes between groups.

Please see **GOLF**, page 8

GOLF

American Hockey League cancels remainder of season

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds, in conjunction with the American Hockey League (AHL) and Chief Executive Officer David Andrews, announced today that the league's Board of Governors has voted to cancel the remainder of the 2019-20 AHL regular season and the 2020 Calder Cup playoffs due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis.

"After a lengthy review process, the American Hockey League has determined that the resumption and completion of the 2019-20 season is not feasible in light of current conditions. The League's operational focus has turned toward actively preparing for the 2020-21 season. We are very grateful to the National Hockey League and its teams for their support and leadership in navigating through the challenges faced over the past two months. The AHL continues to place paramount importance on the health and safety of our players, officials, staff and fans and all of their families, and we all look forward to returning to our arenas in 2020-21."

The AHL's standings – sorted by points percentage – and statistics as of March 12, 2020, are considered final and official, and will serve as the basis for determining league awards for the 2019-20 season.

Statement from Springfield Thunderbirds' President, Nathan Costa

These truly are unprecedented circumstances, and though it is not the outcome that we all hoped for,

Please see **AHL**, page 8

Schools

Hampden County Bar Association offers scholarships

The Hampden County Bar Association is now accepting applications for the John F. Moriarty Scholarship and the Colonel Archer B. Battista Veterans Scholarship. The John F. Moriarty Scholarship is available to any Hampden County resident who has been admitted to or is attending a certified law school for the 2020-2021 academic year. Applicants must have been residents of Hampden County for at least five years. The deadline date for the John F. Moriarty Scholarship is July 15, 2020. The Colonel Archer B. Battista Veterans Scholarship is available to any Veteran with an Honorable Discharge or a current member of the United States Military who has been admitted to or is attending a certified law school in New England for the 2020-2021 year. The deadline for the Colonel Archer B. Battista Veterans Scholarship is July 15, 2020. Both scholarships are based on merit and financial need. Both applications and additional information are available by contacting the Caitlin Glenn at the Hampden County Bar Association at (413) 732-4660, caitlin@hcbar.org or online at <https://www.hcbar.org/about-us/scholarships/>

STCC Theater Workshop goes online for spring plays

SPRINGFIELD - Audiences for the STCC Theater Workshop's plays normally keep their eyes on the stage, but this spring they will keep their eyes on the screen. At a time of social distancing, Springfield Technical Community College Theater Workshop will perform three plays, with students acting out their parts from their homes in front of their computers. "We had to change things up this spring due to the stay-at-home advisories related to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Phil O'Donoghue, theater professor. "What was originally seven short plays was cut to three plays that can be performed for the screen. I'm very impressed with rehearsals and how this is turning out. I think audiences will enjoy what our students have come up with."

The Theater Workshop sent lighting equipment and costumes to the homes of student actors to boost the production quality.

One play chronicles a therapy session. The other two dramatize phone conversations. The three plays have been performed at major 10-minute play festivals. The plays are "Your Mother's Butt," by Alan Ball; "Customer Service," by Philip Hall; and "Miss You," by David Auburn

The performances will be available for viewing starting May 15 on STCC's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

O'Donoghue said the production would not have been possible without help from the STCC community, including STCC Digital Media Professor John Wakelin, STCC Dean of Liberal and Professional Studies Richard Greco, and STCC Marketing and Communications Director Keith Paul.

Cast members are Hannah Bruso-Penkala of Ludlow; Cedric Patterson of Springfield; Gracie Pighetti of Wilbraham; Raquel Polite of Springfield; and Giovanni Tolliver of Springfield

Interested in applying to STCC? Visit stcc.edu/apply or call Admissions at (413) 755-3333.

New Family Defense Practicum to help fill need for legal representation

SPRINGFIELD – The Western New England University School of Law will introduce a Family Defense Practicum into the JD curriculum in Spring 2021. This immersive experiential learning opportunity is the result of a partnership between WNE University School of Law and the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), the statewide public defender system. Working with the CPCS's Children and Family Law (CAFL) program, the initiative is designed to help alleviate the shortage of certified attorneys who have the time and training to represent families in need in western Massachusetts. The program will be helpful in preparing students for future CAFL work, and those who want to participate in the CAFL Pipeline Program.

Participants in the Family Defense Practicum will spend 16 hours a week at their jobsite working under the supervision of staff attorneys as student lawyers in the Children and Family Law (CAFL) division of CPCS. The CAFL division provides legal representation to both children and indigent parents in child welfare matters. Student lawyers will have the opportunity to represent parents in child welfare proceedings as well as child clients who are verbal and can articulate their position. They may also have the opportunity to represent infants and toddlers, in which the student lawyer will aid in substituting judgment for the child. Practicum applicants must satisfy all prerequisites, attend an orientation and weekly seminar, and fulfill the requirements for student practice certification under SJC Rule 3:03.

"We at CPCS are very excited to have students join us in our work in the Juvenile Courts," said Barbra Cohen, staff attorney at the Amherst-Northampton CAFL Office. "I think that many people may not realize the important work that is done there. In part that may be due to the fact that in Massachusetts care and protections occur in impounded courts, so the public is not allowed in. We hope that this program will help to bring awareness to this interesting and important area of law and in turn bring in passionate new lawyers into the fold."

United Way's Project Toybox Donates 1,000+ toys to get kids through a tough time

SPRINGFIELD – To relieve the boredom of Hampden County's children, the United Way of Pioneer Valley will be partnering with numerous community organizations to deliver over 1,000 educational, age-appropriate toys of various age and gender to families hit hard by COVID-19. The toys arrive at our office on Wednesday, May 13, and will then be available to our partners based on need.

Project Toybox will take advantage of partner organizations' existing knowledge of families in their service areas to determine where the donated toys can make the most meaningful impact.

Fund for undocumented workers distributes more than \$85,000

The Pioneer Valley Workers Center launched the Undocumented Worker Solidarity Fund 413, distributing financial support to undocumented workers in Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin counties who are not eligible for government stimulus checks or unemployment insurance during the Covid crisis on April 15. To donate to this fund go to pvworkerscenter.org and click the donate button.

PVWC was able to fund all applicants who applied in the first round of funding, from April 15-22. Nearly all applicants are restaurant workers or farmworkers, and 71% reported that due to Covid, they are now working zero hours/week. The applications came from across the valley, with concentrations in Northampton, Amherst, and Springfield.

PVWC volunteers and staff mailed checks for \$300 to 281 households where the applicant is either fully unemployed or working just a handful of hours a week, and \$150 to 23 households working between 20 and 34 hours a week. In total, \$87,750 was sent out in this round.

A second round will be open to applicants starting May 13, and to date, 91 people have expressed that they also need support and would like to be notified when the fund reopens. PVWC continues to fundraise for the second round of support. Donations can be made at www.pvworkerscenter.org, and the application is also posted on the site.

"The fund is a true community effort to support our most vulnerable workers," said PVWC board member Finley Janes. "We

have received 925 donations totaling over \$145,000 so far. Seventeen donors gave the entirety of their \$1,200 stimulus check to the fund, the average donation was \$156 and the median donation was \$100."

An additional \$5000 was raised separately through a local fundraising Valley Grows Day, earmarked to purchase fresh food from the Riquezas del Campo co-operative farm run by five members of the Pioneer Valley Workers Center as part of the Center's mutual aid work. The food will be distributed at PVWC's weekly food distributions in Northampton and Springfield, widely attended by immigrant workers and other community members impacted by the virus. "Mutual aid isn't charity, it's the obligation we have to one another to fill in when the state fails us," said PVWC Co-Director Rose Bookbinder. "In times of crisis, we have to leverage the networks we have to move resources where they are most needed. Mutual aid can be used to build trust and begin new relationships that will grow our collective power to fight the systems that make mutual aid a necessity in the first place."

Applicants shared multiple reasons for applying for support from the fund. One kitchen worker in a local restaurant wrote, "I'm 69 and have diabetes and high blood pressure. For this reason, I have stayed at home without being able to go to work because I am very susceptible to contracting and having complications... I am undocumented, like the rest of my family and it has been difficult to make enough to sustain ourselves in these uncertain times."

Another applicant, who is now working 0 hours/week due to the closing of the restaurant where she worked, wrote "I am very worried because I have two children and many things I must pay for, especially my rent."

A third applicant wrote, "I have four school-age children. I usually work on a farm in the spring and summer. They have told me that now there will be no work because of coronavirus."

A woman who had been working at a bookstore but had been furloughed since March 13th said, "I feel unprotected and worried because I cannot receive government aid at this critical time."

As the checks arrived this past week, we have been flooded with heartfelt thanks from our members, thanking the donors for their solidarity in standing with them. Round two will open next week, and if people are in need of support please refer to our webpage. One member wrote to say "I want to thank you all for the support you are offering to so many people. I received the check sent to me in the mail today, with all my heart I am very grateful to receive the check from your organization. Many people have benefitted not only for the economic support but also for the food distribution weekly. I believe it is a help that we all appreciate in these difficult times when thousands of us are without work, without a steady income and when the government leaves the immigrant community without any type of support. I hope you all remain very well as an organization and as individuals."

GOLF from page 7

Golfers must stay in their car until 15 minutes before their tee time and must return to their car immediately following play. All golfers must use their own golf clubs. Sharing golf clubs or rental golf clubs is not allowed.

These are the rules for golf course: Course facilities including but not limited to the clubhouse, golf shop, restaurant, bag room and locker room must remain closed. Personnel will be present to enforce social distancing. No

other employees will be allowed to work at the recreational component of the golf operation. All staff must wear face coverings while on property. Members-only clubs can allow guests as determined by the security personnel on the golf course. Private clubs that allow non-members to make reservations can do so at their discretion. Maintenance personnel are permitted to work on the golf course. Online and remote payment options must be utilized. Flagsticks must remain in the hole. Hole liners must be

raised so picking a ball out of the hole doesn't occur. Bunker rakes must be removed, and ball washers must be removed or covered. Practice putting green, driving range, and chipping areas must be closed. Facilities must have readily accessible hand sanitizer.

It is possible these restrictions will receive another look as the state begins to re-open. Golf is currently the only sport being played in the state.

AHL from page 7

we fully support the decision made today by the American Hockey League to cancel the remainder of the 2019-20 season. On behalf of the entire Thunderbirds organization, we would like to thank our great fans for their unwavering support this year as well as the Florida Panthers for their commitment to our city during the first four years of our franchise. Please continue to adhere to all local and federal guidelines in an effort to stay safe, and I can't wait to see all of you in a few short months to kick off our 5th Anniversary season at the MassMutual Center in 2020-21.

Though the final standings will show the T-Birds on the cusp of a playoff berth for the first time in their history, we continued to make an impact in the Springfield community during our fourth season. We had nine sell-outs through the shortened 20-21 season, the same number as all of last season, as well as eclipsing the 5,000 per game attendance mark for the second consecutive season with an average of 5,262 per game. Next season will be a special one for the organization, as we begin a five-year affiliation agreement with the defending Stanley Cup champion St. Louis Blues to coincide with the club's fifth year of existence.

As an organization we have been proactive about reaching out to fans with tickets to remaining games, but if you have not yet made a decision in regards to those tickets, a Thunderbirds representative can help you by calling (413) 739-GOAL or by visiting our Live Chat on our website, www.springfieldthunderbirds.com.

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DEATH NOTICES

Clough, Jane H. (Ziemba)
Died May 3, 2020
Memorial Service
at a later date
Joyce Funeral Home

Gagner, Kenneth P.
Died May 8, 2020
Visitation July 9, 2020
Lombard Funeral Home

Haley, Eric C.
Died May 4, 2020
Services will be private
Beers & Story Palmer
Funeral Home

Rusek, Mary D. (Makowski)
Died May 6, 2020
Services will be private
Ahearn Funeral Home

Eurkus, Paul K.
Died April 20, 2020
Services will be private
Beers & Story Belchertown
Funeral Home

Graham, Hugh D.
Died May 6, 2020
Memorial service at a later
date
Lombard Funeral Home

Murray, Daniel T.
Died May 4, 2020
Graveside Service at a later
date
Lombard Funeral Home

O B I T U A R I E S

Jane H. (Ziemba) Clough, 96

Mrs. Jane H. (Ziemba) Clough, of Waltham, died peacefully on Sunday May 3, 2020 in Mount Auburn Hospital after a brief illness. She was 96. Jane was born in Warren on February 19, 1924, the daughter of John and Karoline (Szmist) Ziemba. On November 29, 1942 she had her first date with David E. Clough and the pair wed on January 1, 1948 in a small ceremony. They stayed in Warren until 1952 when David's new job at Raytheon brought them to Waltham. They would settle in North Waltham where they would raise their sons and live for the rest of their lives. Jane was a wonderful wife and mother and will be remembered for her innate caring nature. She enjoyed remaining active, and amongst many other endeavors, she was on the board at the Leland Home for many years, loved

to volunteer in any capacity at First Parish Church in Waltham and enjoyed tending to her meticulous flower and vegetable gardens. She was happiest when surrounded by her family and friends and enjoyed cooking and baking for them at any opportunity. She was very musically inclined and had a passion to play and teach the steel guitar. She also loved animals and had a special affinity for cats. She was the beloved wife of the late David E. Clough and mother of the late Lawrence D. 'Larry' Clough and is survived by her son, Ronald M. Clough of Hingham and many nieces, nephews, cousins and many dear friends in her beloved Waltham community. She was also the sister of the late Matilda Hatch, Ted-



dy Ziemba and Leona Zulkiewicz.

Jane's family would like to thank the staff at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge for their kindness and compassionate care they extended to the Clough family during this very difficult time. She will be laid to rest privately in Pine Grove Cemetery, Warren. A memorial service celebrating her life at First Parish Church will be announced at a later date. Memorials in her name may be made to The First Parish Church, David Clough Music Fund, 50 Church Street, Waltham or The Cat Connection, P.O. Box 541435 Waltham, MA 02454.

To share a memory please visit www.JoyceFuneralHome.com.

Paul Kenneth Eurkus, 68

Paul Kenneth Eurkus, 68, passed away after a short battle with Cancer on April 20, 2020. He was born in Springfield, Mass. on January 22, 1952, son of the late Edward and Lois (Cole) Eurkus. He married Ann (Pierce) Eurkus on August 10, 1974. Paul graduated Palmer High School in 1970. He attended Tractor Trailer school and drove for Diamond International in Thorndike, Ma. Paul then went to work for the Palmer Highway Department and retired in February 2017 after 27 years. He loved being retired - doing nothing, watching TV or visiting his coworkers. Paul would let the grass grow over his ankles before he would mow, then tell Ann it was so it wouldn't burn in the hot sun! He and Ann traveled, cruised,

and were lucky enough to win a 2014 Indian Vintage Motorcycle. New adventures were on the horizon - Canada, Florida, New England, and short trips with Fritzie's Roamers Indian Motorcycle Club. Paul was the Secretary of the club the last two years. He was a past member of the Belchertown Conservation Commission, Life Member of the Swift River Sportsman's Club, Member of St Joe's, St Stan's and St Mary's Clubs. Paul was respected, loved, and a wonderful caring husband who will be missed by all who knew him. He leaves his wife Ann (Pierce) Eurkus, a brother, Mike, his nieces,



Jessica, Maureen, Selena, Angela, and his nephews, Michael and Jack. He will be especially missed by his sister in law, Cindy O'Keefe, his nephew's Mike, Joe O'Keefe and their families, and his Mother in Law, Shirley Pierce. Services will be Private at Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. In place of flowers, please make a donation in his memory to the Belchertown Ambulance Service, Belchertown Police Department, Shriner's Hospital in Springfield, Mass. or a charity of your choice. For more information please visit www.beersand-story.com

Kenneth P. Gagner, 69

MONSON - Kenneth P. Gagner, 69, passed away Friday, May 8, 2020 with his loving wife and daughter at his side. Ken was born in Springfield, July 10, 1950 to the late Earl L. and Louise C. (Vecchiarelli) Gagner. Ken served in the US Army from 1969-1972 and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. Ken earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice while serving the City of Springfield as one of the first mounted police officers. He retired from the Springfield Police Department after 28 years of service. Kenny enjoyed watching theatre performances with Kelly and karaoke at the Polish Club, spending summer days at the campground, fishing, yearly beach visits, and playing pranks. As a kid at heart, Ken could often be found causing mischief with the children and anyone else who would partake. He was a life member of the DAV in West

Springfield, American Legion post 241 and the Polish American Citizen Club in Monson. Kenneth is predeceased by his brothers Lee, David and Steven Gagner. He leaves behind his wife, Kimberly D. Reed-Gagner and children; Kelly Gagner of Monson, Jillian Valcourt and Scott of Wales, Jeffrey Reed of Hampden and Daniel Gagner of Palmer. He also leaves his brother, Brian Gagner, sisters, Patricia Simone and Joseph, Cynthia Thompson and Miner, Diane Cartwright and Wayne, sisters-in-law, Marcia Gagner, Debbie Gagner and Sue Gagner; grandchildren, Madelynn and Emilie Dart, Gracie Smith, Charlotte Valcourt and "Milo" the dog. Kenny also leaves behind a large extended family with many aunts, un-



cles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who were very near to his heart. Due to the current restrictions of social gatherings the family has planned visiting hours July 9th from 5-8pm in Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge St. Monson, MA. Committal services with Military Honors will be held Friday July 10th at 3pm at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, Springfield 516 Carew St Springfield, MA 01104. For online condolences and additional information or changes in services please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

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O B I T U A R I E S

Hugh D. Graham, 90

WORCESTER/MONSON – Hugh Graham passed away on Wednesday, May 6th at Knollwood Nursing Center in Worcester, MA. He was born July 18, 1929 in Cambridge Massachusetts to John and Edna (Sullivan) Graham. On July 9, 1955 he married Phyllis Guilford of Adrian, MI. He is survived by Phyllis and their seven children: Martha, Hugh Jr., Mark, Steven, James, Matthew and Peter; their loving spouses, 12 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren. He joins his brothers John and Eugene and his great grandchild Leah LaCroix in the hereafter.

Hugh's father, an immigrant and well-respected schoolmaster in Cambridge, MA, died just before Hugh turned 12, leaving his mother, a schoolteacher, to raise him and his two brothers. Hugh graduated from Cambridge High and Latin school in 1946 and immediately enrolled in the army to serve in post-war Japan. There, as a 17-year-old, he witnessed firsthand the devastating results of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The suffering of the victims of radiation burns and poisoning left an enduring impression on him. After being discharged from the army, he was determined to further his education and enrolled in Brown & Nichols preparatory school, graduating in 1949. He was accepted to Harvard College and began classes there that fall. At Harvard, he studied history and political science and played hockey on the freshman team.

After graduating from Harvard in 1953, Hugh traveled to Aspen, CO where he met and fell in love with Phyllis, who would become his companion for nearly 65 years. They moved back east to Monson, MA where Hugh got a job as a teacher in the public high school. He received

a Master's of Education from Boston State College in 1962.

Raising a family was foremost in Hugh and Phyllis' hearts and from 1956 through 1968 they realized their dream with a girl and six boys. Hugh was dedicated to his family, spending all his free time with them to share his enjoyment of camping, hiking, sailing, skiing, and playing tennis. A Ford station wagon and a pop-up camper were all he needed to instill a love of country and outdoor adventure in his seven kids. They all have fond memories of long trips across the country visiting the National Parks.

In Monson, Hugh became principal of the elementary school and president of the Monson Free Library Association where he oversaw the expansion of the library in both its building and its offerings. He was very active in church life, teaching catechism classes, working for Catholic Charities, serving in the Knights of Columbus and as a Eucharistic Minister for St. Patrick's Church. He was active in civic life as an outspoken proponent of fairness, helping to secure retirement benefits for town employees, driving people to the polls, and championing social justice issues. In particular, he was an advocate for integration of schools and worked to gain Monson schools' participation in METCO, a volunteer program in the late 1960s and early 70s that gave African American children access to well-funded schools outside of their own poorly funded districts.

Hugh was an educator at heart instituting field trips for Monson school students, modernizing the curriculum and be-



ing an advocate for teachers. For 20 years, as head of the town's driving instruction program, he taught hundreds of young people the essential skills of how to drive safely. Even his leisure time was dedicated to learning, sharing his love of history and civics with his family by taking yearly trips to walk the Freedom Trail in Boston.

Raised by a single mother, Hugh had great respect for the rights of women and he spoke often of the accomplishments of his mother and his aunts who were successful professional women in 1930s. These strong women were his mentors and role models. The dedication and sacrifices Hugh made for his family are evidence of the loving and nurturing spirit they passed on to him. Through his example he has passed the same spirit on to his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In retirement Hugh continued to travel with Phyllis and pursue their loves of tennis and alpine skiing. He reveled in the success of his children, all of whom sought higher education and have found love and success in their own ways.

Hugh's honest, loving and generous spirit left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Monson Free Library in his name, 2 High Street Monson, MA 01057.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Lombard Funeral home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Eric Christopher Haley, 51

Eric Christopher Haley, 51, of Palmer, Massachusetts passed away May 4, 2020 at Baystate Medical Center with his loving wife by his side. He was born on August 24, 1968 in Ware, Massachusetts to Brian and Nancy (Gullmes) Haley. Eric was raised in Brimfield and graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School class of 86. He enlisted in the US Army and proudly served his country during Desert Storm. After being honorably discharged, he moved to Palmer where he has lived for

over 20 years. Eric worked for 16 years, for the Local 63 Sheet Metal Union. Eric was happiest being at home, working around his house, he also enjoyed rehabbing homes. He will be deeply missed by his wife, Paula A. (Lajzer) Haley and two daughters Erica and Carly Haley all of Palmer. He is also survived by his mother Nancy Haley and her companion Wayne Lemon of



Palmer, three brothers, Mark and James Haley of Brimfield and Timothy Haley of Palmer. He was predeceased by his father Brian Haley and a brother Brian Haley. Service will be privately held at the convenience of the family.

Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements. For more information, please visit www.beersandstory.com

Daniel T. Murray, 56

WALES - Daniel T. Murray, 56, passed away Monday, May 4, 2020. Daniel was born October 5, 1963 in Ware, MA to the late Eleanor I. (Blanchard) and Harold T. Murray Sr. He has been a lifelong resident of Wales. For many years he worked at Northern Tree and also worked for Peter Johnson at New England Wood Inc. Dan enjoyed working on cars, heading to the ocean to fish and watching NASCAR.

Danny leaves his sister, Sharon P. Pfeiffer and her husband

David of Wales, his brother William E. Murray and Jo-Anne Snyder of Northbridge, MA, his sister in-law Cheryl Murray of Holland along with many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. He also leaves Nico, Brian, Noah and Carlos. Dan was predeceased by his parents and his brothers, Harold T. Murray Jr, Kenneth M. Murray; sisters, Lynn A. Murray



and M. Kathleen Fernot.

A public graveside service will be held at Wales #4 Cemetery. The time and date will be announced. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Oxford House 810 Belmont Ave Springfield, MA 01108. For online condolences and additional information about services, please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Mary Dorothy (Makowski) Rusek, 83

Mary Dorothy (Makowski) Rusek passed peacefully on the morning of May 6th, succumbing to an intestinal perforation, at the age of 83 at the Elaine Center in Hadley Mass. Most recently residing at Christopher Heights in Belchertown, Mary leaves behind her daughters Sophie Rusek of Southwick, Michalene Messier of Palmer, Son-in-Law Keith Messier of Palmer, and Grandchildren Mikayla and Gabriel. Mary's life began on August 25th, 1936 in Webster

Mass. She was the daughter of Isabel Rodzio and Joseph Makowski. She married Michael Rusek (a dairy farmer from Three Rivers Ma), in 1965. In her younger years as a devoted Catholic, she taught CCD at St Anne's in Three Rivers and volunteered at church events. She could often be seen knitting, doing puzzles, or reading about the Saints. In her youth she played tennis, went skiing, and played the accordion. Mary was a caring person that could often be found

talking with her grandkids, or calling the church to discuss things with the deacons, priests or nuns. In addition, she was always donating crafts, or knitting's things to donate to those in need. Services will be private at the convenience of the family and will be handled by Ahearn Funeral Home in Northampton. In lieu of flowers please forward donations to: Felician Sisters sponsored Ministries of Enfield (1315 Enfield St, Enfield Ct. 06082)

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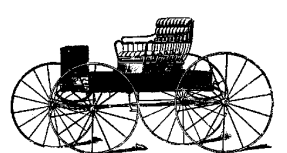
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TOWN OF WARREN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ASSISTANT CHIEF OPERATOR
The Town of Warren Board of Sewer Commissioners is accepting Applications for a Wastewater Treatment Plant Assistant Chief Operator. Salary is in accordance with the Town's current wage classification plan. Applicants must possess a Massachusetts Grade 5 Operators License and valid MA Driver's license. Job descriptions and applications are available at the Warren Wastewater Treatment Plant, 2527 Main Street, West Warren, MA 01092. The position will remain open until filled. Warren is an EOE.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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FOR RENT



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TAX FILING DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO JULY 15

2020 TAX TIME

AJE FINANCIAL SERVICES

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www.ajefinancial.com
(413)589-1671

We are still continuing to process tax returns through drop off and electronic processes. Our office hours are Monday thru Thursday 9am to 4pm Please call or email to make arrangements

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HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER
The Palmer Police Department responded to 248 incidents from May 5 through May 11. The department made eight arrests or summons. Those arrested will appear in Palmer District Court at a future date and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, May 5
Bridget Belisle, 32, of 1042 Thorndike St., Palmer, was arrested at 10:45 p.m. on North Main Street in Palmer on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; and motor vehicle lights violation.

Sunday, May 10
Kory Joseph Girouard, 26, of 1012 Maple St., Palmer was arrested at 5:48 p.m. on Thorndike Street in Palmer on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; neg-

ligent operation of a motor vehicle; a marked lanes violation; and carrying a dangerous weapon.

Raymond Charles Gudaitis, 53, homeless, was arrested at 9:27 p.m. on North Main Street in Palmer on charges of trespassing; and breaking and entering at nighttime, with the intent to commit misdemeanor.

MONSON
The Monson Police Department responded to 174 incidents from May 3 through May 9. The department made five arrests or summons. Those arrested will appear in Palmer District Court at a future date and are innocent until proven guilty.

Sunday, May 3
Katie Barbara Olbrych, 37, of 130 Stafford Hollow Rd., Mon-

son, was arrested at 10:42 a.m. on charges of interfering with a police officer; resisting arrest; assault and battery on a police officer; disorderly conduct.

Monday, May 4
Timothy Charles Fortin, 31, of 229 State Ave., Monson, was arrested at 10:11 a.m. on four counts of a default warrant.

Tuesday, May 5
Amanda Lynne Charron, 28, of 49 Washington St. Apt. #B, Monson, was arrested at 12:30 p.m. for violating a harassment prevention order.

Christine L. Kennedy, 41, of 62 Upper Palmer Rd. Apt. #B, Monson, was arrested at 2:57 p.m. for a warrant; possession of a Class A drug; and possession of a Class B drug.

Fire Logs

PALMER
The Palmer Fire Department responded to a total of ten calls from May 5 through May 11.

On Tuesday, May 5, at 11:10 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Pleasant Street. The department returned to service at 11:54 p.m.

On Wednesday, May 6, at 10:01 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Thorndike Street. The department returned to service at 10:18 a.m.

On Wednesday, May 6, at 7:04 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Commercial Street. The department returned to service at 7:54 p.m.

On Thursday, May 7, at 11:30 a.m., the department provided public service on Squire Street. The department returned to service at 11:45 a.m.

On Thursday, May 7, at 3:15 p.m., the department responded to a lockdown on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 3:25 p.m.

On Saturday, May 9, at 12:29 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on West Ware Street. The department to service at 12:59 p.m.

On Saturday, May 9, at 3:17 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Wright Street. The department returned to service at 3:37 p.m.

responded to a total of three calls from May 5 through May 11.

On Tuesday, May 5, at 11:43 p.m., the department responded to South Main Street to investigate an outside burning complaint. Nothing was found and the department returned to service at 12:10 a.m.

On Wednesday, May 6, at 1:20 a.m., the department provided medical assistance on Oak Street. The department returned to service at 1:50 a.m.

On Monday, May 11, at 8:20 p.m., the department responded to High Street for the report of a fire on a telephone pole. National grid was contacted, and the department returned to service at 8:39 p.m.

Ocean State donates critical PPE

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Ocean State Job Lot is making every dollar count in its effort to ensure the safety of frontline workers during the Covid-19 pandemic. The discount retailer is in the midst of a \$250,000 campaign that is donating supplies to 140 different communities.

“We have an opportunity and a social responsibility to have a positive impact throughout the Northeast, where our associates and customers live and work,” said Paul Conforti, Chief Marketing Officer.

As part of its mission, Ocean State Job Lot is donating Personal Protective Equipment to first responders, medical personnel and frontline workers in each of the 140 communities that the business calls home.

With stores spread across Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont, the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation certainly has its hands full.

“We believe that during this time of crisis, we all have skills and abilities that can help with the fight against COVID-19. At Ocean State Job Lot, we are using our global supply chain to source critical supplies and immediately provide them to frontline workers,” said Conforti.

As the region struggles to produce an adequate supply of PPE, the retailer’s campaign is critically significant. In addition to the \$250,000 that Ocean State Job Lot initially put towards its endeavor, the business is entering customer donations into the equation.

“Our customers have been incredibly generous,” said Conforti. “We’re using 100% of every donated dollar to purchase supplies, and we’re using our buying power to get the most for everyone’s money.”

Ocean State Job Lot employees have stepped up and are contributing through a variety of means. Team Leaders at each location are communicating with their local police and fire chiefs to identify each department’s needs.

From that list, the retailer’s Distribution Center is filling boxes with requested items and labeling each one for shipment directly to the stations, noted Conforti. During the pandemic, Ocean State Job Lot has been forced to reduce hours, staff availability and has been mandated to limit the amount of customers allowed in each store at once.

“All of these factors present ongoing challenges for our business. We feel fortunate to be able to remain open to serve our communities by providing essential items, including food, paper products, household cleaners, hand soap and sanitizer, and other much-needed products,” said Conforti.

Inside of each location, Ocean State Job Lot employees are wearing face coverings and sanitizing regularly. Signage is posted on store doors to alert customers of safety recommendations, and Plexiglas

shields have been added at registers to protect employees.

Register lines are also marked for social distancing and customers are being asked to use “contactless payment or credit card at the pin pad,” said Conforti.

In addition to distributing PPE, the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation supports numerous causes such as feeding the hungry, helping the homeless, assisting veterans and military families, caring for children and advocating for healthcare among others.

“Contributions made to the foundation are handled with the same business expertise, intelligence and focus on value used to run the Ocean State Job Lot retail operation,” said Conforti. “This ensures that every dollar entrusted to the foundation makes the greatest possible impact on the communities we serve. Ocean State Job Lot absorbs all of the expenses associated with operating the foundation so 100 percent of every dollar donated benefits the organizations we support.”

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

THREE RIVERS
The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to a total of three calls from May 6 through May 8.

On Wednesday, May 6, at 6:23 a.m., the department responded to an EMS incident on Main Street. The department returned to service at 6:53 a.m.

On Friday, May 8, at 10:30 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Springfield Street. The department returned to service at 10:37 a.m.

On Friday, May 8, at 12:45 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Palmer Road. The department returned to service at 1:00 p.m.

MONSON
The Monson Fire & Emergency Services Department responded to a total of 17 EMS Calls and three Fire Calls.

On Thursday, May 7, at 9:50 a.m., the department responded to 5 Longview Dr. for smoke in the residence. The department returned to service at 10:10 a.m.

On Thursday, May 7, at 10:10 a.m., the department responded to 15 Longview Dr. for a carbon monoxide alarm. The department returned to service at 10:35 a.m.

On Sunday, May 19, at 5:45 p.m., the department responded to 329 Stafford Rd. for a porch fire. The department returned to service at 6:30 p.m.

BONDSDVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department

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POSTPONEMENT:
We are so sorry but our May Scrabble Night and our May Basket Raffle will be postponed. At this time we are uncertain as to when they will be rescheduled.

TOP FLOOR LEARNING NEWS!
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Public Notices

TOWN OF PALMER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals
5/14, 5/21/2020

The Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. s11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday May 28, 2020 at 7:05 P.M. REMOTELY**, on the application of Vertex Tower Assets, LLC for a Variance from the requirements of Section 6.14.2.9 Wireless Communications Facilities Regulations of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks relief from the setback requirements of 500 feet from lot lines in residential districts for the proposed 100’ mono-pole style wireless communications tower. The proposed location is 94 Cote Rd, Monson, MA, Map 052, Parcel 028, owned by Ronald P. Ouimet & Amy S. Ouimet, in the Rural Residential district.

The public may join the meeting remotely by using Zoom and following the participation instructions as posted on the meeting agenda on the town website at: www.monson-ma.gov/zoning-board-appeals or call the office at 413-267-4111 for participation information.

David Beaudoin Chairman
5/14, 5/21/2020

Dennis Fountain, Chairman

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40 A, Section 6 M.G.L. the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 5:00PM** at the Palmer Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, David Winot, is requesting a Finding, §171.83J of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance. The finding request is for the construction of a 12x17 wooden sunroom and a 12x12 wooden deck, replacing an enclosed porch and wooden deck. The property is located at 14 Paul Street, Bondsville, MA 01009.

This parcel is also known as Assessor’s Map 28, Lot 7.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Administrative Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association’s (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

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3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



Ron Martin of Monson said he took this photo on Saturday, May 9th, during a snow and windstorm in Monson. "This is a Baltimore Oriole drinking from our hummingbird feeder in our weeping cherry tree – we have never seen them do this before," Martin said.



Paul Brozek of Belchertown snapped this photo of a Bald Eagle on May 6th at about 7:15pm. "The eagle was in a tree over Route 181 in Bondsville near the entrance to the Palmer Industrial Park," Brozek said.

Country Bank donates \$75,000 as part of 'Neighbors in Need' program

WARE – As the pandemic continues to disrupt business activities both nationally and in Massachusetts, Country Bank today announced a \$75,000 series of donations designed to assist organizations on the frontline.

As the latest installment in a string of recent financial support, the bank will be facilitating donations to select organizations throughout its market from Springfield to Worcester. The Greater Worcester Community Foundation and Community Foundation of Western Mass will receive \$25,000 each to provide additional grant funding for critical needs programs. These programs offer support for vulnerable seniors, those without stable housing, limited English, and with compromised health conditions, including mental health and drug addiction.

Other programs receiving a contribution include: Friends of the Homeless and The Springfield Rescue Mission; Abbey's House, Saint John's Food Pantry, and the Boys and Girls Club in Worcester. These donations will assist in continuing to meet the ever-changing needs in their communities. Many nonprofit organizations are not only combating reduced financial support as many businesses are closed, but they also are faced with a lack of volunteers. They are having to continually evolve how they support their clients while keeping everyone safe, on a limited budget and with limited resources.

"This is an uncharted time for our bank, our customers, and our local business community. As part of our effort to assist those most affected by COVID-19, Country Bank has already donated \$400,000 to help local hospitals, first responder recovery centers, food pantries, homeless shelters, veterans, children and community foundations," said Paul Scully, president and CEO of Country Bank. "We continually look for opportunities where we can help make a difference in the health and well-being of the people in our communities."

Country Bank continues to be one of the many businesses that have been supporting these organizations and so many others out there who are fighting a good fight. To learn how to help these great organizations, visit www.countrybank.com/COVID19.

Country Bank is a full-service mutual community bank serving central and western

Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, and Worcester. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

Mass RMV cautions customers to be aware of unofficial third-party websites

Customers are encouraged to use only Mass.Gov/RMV for online RMV Services

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is cautioning customers to use only Mass.Gov/RMV when they are trying to renew a license or registration or process any business transactions online. Customers may inadvertently come across unofficial third-party websites or "mimic sites" that advertise similar services but have no affiliation with the RMV.

"Customers need to ensure that they are using the official Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles website Mass.Gov/RMV to conduct their business transactions," said Acting Registrar of Motor Vehicles Jamey Tesler. "Customers should avoid using any unofficial third-party websites that are offering RMV services to ensure that their personal and financial information is protected."

Customers can use the helpful hints listed below to determine whether the website they are using is the official site for the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Massachusetts uses the abbreviation "RMV." Any website using the phrase "Department of Motor Vehicles" or "DMV" should be avoided.

Make sure the Commonwealth's seal is located somewhere on the page. This will help ensure that it is an official government website. If it cannot be found, customers should leave the site immediately.

Always read the fine print and look for key phrases such as "for-profit" or "privately owned" at the top or bottom of the third-party websites which may note that they are not affiliated with the Commonwealth.

The Registry will never charge a customer to check the status of a license, registration, or title. If the site requires payment to access this information, it is an unsecured mimic site.

At Mass.Gov/RMV, a customer will never be charged to access Registry forms and information, but unofficial third-party sites may charge for this service. Their information is also not guaranteed to be accurate.

The Registry never charges for address changes. If a customer uses a mimic site, the change cannot be guaranteed to have actually gone through.

Any information on these third-party websites may not be accurate, and any details or payments that customers submit may not be secure. The RMV is not responsible for the content or actions taken by these sites. For more information on the dangers of third-party services, visit the Mass.Gov/RMV.

Customers with additional questions can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation by calling the Consumer Hotline at (617) 973-8787, or toll-free in MA at (888) 283-3757.

For the latest Registry updates and information, follow the RMV on Twitter @MassRMV.

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